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Dear Parents

As of March 23rd, there are new rules regarding what members of the public must do in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. One of the many parts of information given about the virus was the stopping of all non-essential contact with others and staying at home.

Students have been used to the routine of attending school each day, working together with their friends and participating directly in lessons. Within a week, this has completely changed; students are now at home, adapting to new ways of learning and advised not to meet up with friends. These unexpected changes may start to have a negative effect on students' wellbeing, where they may soon start to find themselves feeling worried about the spread of Coronavirus and its impact on them and their loved ones. We need to reassure you that these feelings are normal and it is important that we acknowledge them and remind each other to look after our physical and mental health.

Whilst staff at Maplewell Hall School are working very hard to enable students to continue with their education via our Google Classroom learning platform, it is also important that we support students in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing.

In order to mitigate against this, since the beginning of last week we have put a number of strategies in place. For example, every weekday a team of staff from school have been delivering hot meals for the most vulnerable families. Form tutors, as well as the intervention team, have been contacting parents and students in their tutor groups at least once a week by phone. During their conversations, tutors check that students have been able to access the online platform and are making progress in each subject. They also ask them about their daily routines, how they feel about themselves and whether there is any additional support they might need from school.

After a discussion with tutors, staff may be able to refer students to our wellbeing COMPASS team who are available to speak to students via a phone call. As part of our safeguarding policy, staff will call using no caller ID when making phone calls.

Finally, we have put a valuable source of information relating mental health and wellbeing on the Maplewell Hall School. A link has been created on our homepage ("Student Wellbeing Support"), which will take students to a range of resources.

Yours sincerely

Jason Brooks
Head Teacher

